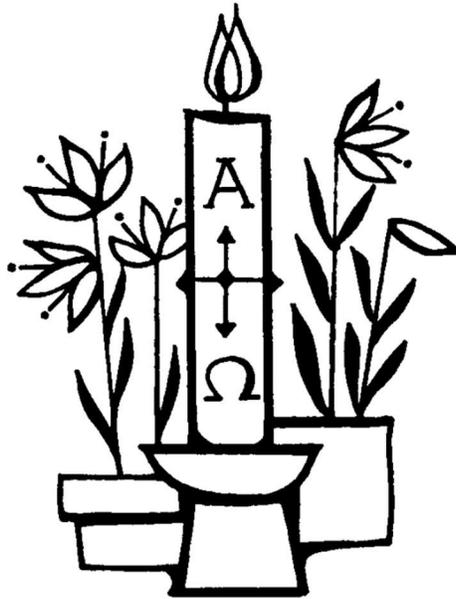


*“I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me shall live,
and never die...”*
– *John 11:25*



Funeral Preparation Guide

My friends,

Preparing a funeral is a very emotional event, whether it is for a loved one who has just died, or you are pre-planning your own funeral. When a loved one dies, grieving family members and friends are often confronted with dozens of decisions about the funeral, all of which must be made quickly and often under great emotional distress.

This booklet is meant to be a guide to assist and help individuals in preparing a funeral. The funeral is for the living and is intended to assist us in celebrating the life of the person who has died. No one wants to talk about death and funerals -- too depressing, too macabre. Better to gather with friends and talk about sports or the kids. Certainly, this would be more fun. Unfortunately, death is a fact of life, and there simply is no way to avoid it. Indeed, there is *“a time to be born and a time to die”*.

When someone dies, we hold a funeral, a word related to a Sanskrit term meaning “smoke”, which refers to an ancient custom of cremating the dead. Today, although we also sometimes cremate our dead, the most common disposition is to hold a funeral, or another ceremony, and to bury our dead under or above ground. Through a funeral, we pay our last respects and celebrate the life of a departed loved one.

The Catholic Church has rich symbolism and rituals built around this significant event -- rituals and symbolism that are meant to give hope and faith, supported by the consolation of God and the community. There are **three parts** to the Catholic Order of Funerals. The first part, the Vigil, is a prayer service, usually held the evening before the funeral Mass, in which we recognize and realize that we have suffered a loss and gather to say goodbye to the one who has died. The second part, the Funeral Mass, is a celebration of new life for our loved one, a liturgy that is based upon our faith and our hope of the resurrection. The third part is the Committal, during which we bury the one who has died, either bodily or his/her cremains.

At the end of this document, you will find a sheet for preparing a Funeral Mass/Memorial Mass/Service. On these pages, there are various options available from which you may choose. There are page numbers on these forms that refer you to corresponding page numbers in this packet, which will spell out these options more fully.

It is our hope you will find this booklet useful. If we or our parish staff can be of any help to you in any way, please do not hesitate to simply call and ask for assistance.

In Christ, I am:

Reverend Vincent L. Parsons
Pastor

Miscellaneous Information:

Preparing the Funeral Mass/Memorial Mass for the Deceased

Presider: If a Mass is to be held for the Funeral Rites, the Presider must be a priest. If a Funeral Service is being held without a Mass, the Presider can be a Priest or a Deacon. If there are family friends or relatives who are clergy, they are invited to participate. Please check with the Presider about this.

Place: If the Funeral celebration is going to be a Mass, it must be in the Church. If the Funeral celebration is going to be a Service without a Mass, it can be held either in the funeral home or the Church, whichever the family prefers.

Altar Servers: The parish can provide altar servers from our parish volunteers. If the family wishes to have their own servers, please inform the priest as soon as possible.

Time: Generally, the time for the Funeral Mass is 10:00 or 10:30 AM. Other times are possible. Please check with the priest before making final arrangements.

Placing the Pall: (Assuming there are no Cremains). The Pall is the white cloth that covers the casket. It recalls the day of baptism when the deceased was wrapped in a white cloth and given a challenge to bring their Christian Dignity unstained into the Kingdom of Heaven. It is most fitting for family members to place the pall on the casket if they are willing to do so.

Other Symbolic Items: If the family would like to bring forward items that are indicative or symbolic of the deceased, please let the Presider know and work out the logistics with him. These may be carried in the Entrance procession and placed on a table near the casket.

Readings: There are usually three readings: one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and one from the Gospels. The Old Testament Readings are found on **pages 5 – 8**; the Responsorial Psalms are found on page 8-11; the New Testament Readings are found on **pages 11-15**; the Gospel Readings are found on **pages 15-22**. The Prayers of the Faithful selections can be found on **pages 22-25**. If there is someone among your family members or friends who can be a Lector and read the readings, there is a space provided to write their names. If there is no one who can do this, the Presider will find one for you or the Presider will read the readings himself. The Gospel is always read by a Priest or a Deacon.

Homily Ideas: The Presider may or may not know the deceased very well. Therefore, it is always welcomed to have input as to what would be important to be shared at the Mass or Service. This could be interesting stories, anecdotes, favorite things -- however the deceased would like to be remembered. The Presider will interlace these stories with

the scripture chosen to put together a Homily that will celebrate the life of the deceased in the context of our faith.

Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions): Two forms are provided for the Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions). Please fill in the blanks that are provided. If there is someone among your family members or friends who can read the Petitions, there is a space provided to write their name. If there is no one who can do this, the Presider will read them.

Gift Bearers: There are gifts of bread and wine that are used during the Eucharist. If the family has family members or friends whom they wish to bring the gifts forward, please write their name on the Preparation Sheet.

Eucharistic Ministers (EMHC's): Usually, the parish provides a person to serve as a Eucharistic Minister at the Funeral Mass or Memorial Mass. However, if you have an EMHC among your family members or friends who would like to assist with this ministry, please write their name on the Preparation Sheet.

Music: For the most part, music should be chosen from the list of music suggestions on pages 25-26. If you have other music that you would like included in the Mass, please discuss these selections with one of musicians.

The Funeral Selection Planning Sheet can be found on page 27-29. This is where the family selections can be noted for easy retrieval.

Parish music ministers, who provide music for a Funeral or Memorial Mass, should be compensated for their services. Funeral Dinners are offered for parishioners and their families immediately following either the funeral service or burial.

Important Contact Information

Fr. Vince Parsons (308) 754-4002
Pastor pastor@howardcountycatholics.com

Deacon Neil Baquet (308) 754-4002
Deacon deacon@howardcountycatholics.com

Judy Baker (308) 754-4002
Parish Office Support Staff office@howardcountycatholics.com

Mrs. Pat Knutson (308) 754-5528
Funeral Dinner Coordinator patknutson1954@outlook.com

Parish Address: 713 Elm Street, Saint Paul, NE. 68873
Website: www.howardcountycatholics.com

Old Testament Readings

OT C-1

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees:

Judas, the ruler of Israel, took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-2

A reading from the Book of Job:

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him; And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-3 (Long Version)

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom:

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be

punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation, they shall shine and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-3 (Short Version)

*A Reading from the Book of Wisdom:
3:1-6,9*

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-4

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom:

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported-- Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the LORD, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

OT C-5 [Isaiah 25:6,7-9]

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all people. The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord

OT C-6 [Lamentations 3:17-26]

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the LORD.

The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; Remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me.

But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: The favors of the LORD are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness.

My portion is the LORD, says my soul; therefore, will I hope in him. Good is the LORD to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-7 [Daniel 12:1-3]

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel:

At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever; others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-8 (Long Version) [Acts 10:34-43]

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to speak saying:
"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the Word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-8 (Short Version) [Acts 10:34-37]

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to speak saying:
“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the Word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-9 [Revelation 14:13]

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this” Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” said the Spirit, “Let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord

OT C-10 [Revelation 20:11-21]

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-11 [Revelation 21:1-6]

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.

The One who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.”

The Word of the Lord

OT C-12 [Ecclesiastes 3]

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes:

There is an appointed time for everything.
And a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, a time to heal.
A time to tear down; and a time to build up.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them.
A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
A time to be silent, and a time to speak..
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.

The Word of the Lord

OT C-13

[Proverbs 31:10-31]

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs:

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night and distributes food to her household.

She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed.

She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land. She makes garments and sells them and stocks the merchants with belts.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come.

She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her:

"Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all."

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord

[You may select another reading from the Old Testament in which you find comfort and is acceptable for a Mass of Christian Burial. Please consult with the priest should you have any questions.]

Responsorial Psalms

[NOTE: Responsorial Psalms are usually sung but they can be proclaimed by a reader.]

RP D-1

[Psalm 23]

The Response is (®): The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose.
Besides restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right path for his name's sake.... ®

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side. With your rod and staff that give me courage...®

You spread a table before me in the sight of my foes; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows...®

Only Goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come...®

RP D-2 [Psalm 24]

The Response is (®): To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Remember that your compassion, O Lord, and your kindness are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord...®

Relieve the troubles of my heart; and bring me out of my distress. Put an end to my affliction and suffering; and take away all my sins...®

Preserve my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, because I wait for you, O Lord...®

RP D-3 [Psalm 27]
The Response is (®): The Lord is my light and my salvation.

(or) I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the Land of the Living.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid...®

One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate his temple...®

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me. Your presence, O Lord, I seek. Hide not your face from me...®

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord with courage, be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord...®

Rp D-4 [Psalm 42]

The Response is (®): My soul is thirsting for the living God; when shall I see him face to face?

As the hind longs for the running waters, so my souls longs for you, O God...®

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God?...®

I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God. mid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving, with the multitude keeping festival...®

Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on And bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling place...®

Then will I go into the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy; Then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God...®

Why are you so downcast, O my soul? Why do you sigh within me? Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking him, in the presence of my savior and God...®

RP D-5 [Psalm 63]

The Response is (®): My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my god whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water...®

Thus Have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory. For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you...®

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you...®

You are my help,
And in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me...®

RP D-6 [Psalm 103]

The Response is (®): The Lord is kind and merciful. (OR) The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes...®

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust...®

Man's days are like those of grass;
like a flower of the field he blooms;
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,
and his place knows him no more...®

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity,
to eternity toward those who fear him,
And his justice toward children's children
among those who keep his covenant
and remembers to fulfill his precepts...®

RP D-7 [Psalm 116]

The Response is (®): I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the Living.

Gracious is the Lord and just.
yes, our God is merciful...®

The Lord keeps the little ones.
I was brought low, and he saved me...®

I believed, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
I said in my alarm,
"No man is dependable." ... ®

Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant,
you have loosed my bonds...®

RP D-8 [Psalm 122]

The Response is (®): I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when they said to me,
"We will go up to the house of the Lord."
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem...®

To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
In it are set up judgement seats,
seats for the house of David...®

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings...®

Because of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you!"
Because of the house of the Lord, our God,
I will pray for your good...®

RP D-9 [Psalm 130]

The Response is (®): Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication...®

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities,
Lord, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
That you may be revered...®

I trust in the Lord;
my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than the sentinels wait for the dawn...®

More than sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the Lord,
For with the Lord is kindness
And with him is plenteous redemption...®

And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities...®

RP D-10

[Psalm 143]

The Response is (®): O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer;
hearken to my pleading in your faithfulness;
in your justice answer me.
And enter not into judgement with your servant,
for before you no living man is just...®

I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all your doings;
The works of your hands I ponder.
I stretch out my hands to you,
my soul thirsts for you like parched land...®

Hasten to answer me, O Lord;
For my spirit fails within me.
At dawn let me hear of your mercy,
for in you I trust...®

Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.
May your good spirit guide me
on level ground...®

New Testament Readings

NT-1

[Romans 5:5-11]

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the
Romans:*

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of
God has been poured out into our hearts
through Holy Spirit that has been given to
us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet
died at the appointed time for ungodly. Indeed,
only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person one might
even find courage to die. But God proves his
love for us in that while we were still sinners
Christ died for us. How much more then, since

we are now justified by his blood, will we be
saved through him for the wrath. Indeed, if,
while we were enemies, we were reconciled to
God through the death of his Son, how much
more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his
life. Not only that, but we also boast of God
through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom
we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-2

[Romans 5:17-21]

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the
Romans:*

Brothers and Sisters:

If, by the transgression of the one, death began
its reign through one man because of his
offense, much more shall those who receive the
overflowing grace and gift of justice live and
reign through the one man, Jesus Christ.

To sum up, then: just as a single offense
brought condemnation to all,
a single righteous act brought all men acquittal &
life. Just as through one man's disobedience all
became sinners, so through one man's
obedience all shall become just.

The law came in order to increase offenses, but
despite the increase of sin,
grace has far surpassed it, so that, as sin
reigned through death, grace may reign by way
of justice leading to eternal life, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-3 (Long Version)

[Romans 6:3-9]

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the
Romans:*

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into
Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We
were indeed buried with him through baptism
into death, so that, just as Christ was raised
from the dead by the glory of the father, we too
might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-3 (Short Version) [Romans 6:3-4,8-9]

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with Him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over Him.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-4 [Romans 8:14-23]

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and Sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption through which we cry, *Abba*, "Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs with God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so as to be glorified with Him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager

expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject of futility, not of its own accord, but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would beset free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-5 [Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39]

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and Sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed Him over for us all how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-6 [Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12]

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and Sisters:

No one of us lives for oneself and none of us dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God: for it is written:

"As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before Me and every tongue shall give praise to God."
So, then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-7 (Long Version) [Corinthians 15:20-28]

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and Sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death came through a man; hence the resurrection of the dead

comes through a man also. Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits and then, at His coming, all those who belong to Him.

After that will come the end, when, after having destroyed every sovereignty, authority, and power, He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under his feet, and the last enemy to be destroyed is death. Scripture reads that God *"has placed all things under his feet."*

But when it says that everything has been made subject, it is clear that He who has made everything subject to Christ is excluded. When, finally, all has been subjected to the Son, He will then subject Himself to the One who made all things subject to Him, so that god may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-7 (Short Version) [Corinthians 15:20-23]

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and Sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death came through a man; hence the resurrection of the dead comes through a man also. Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits and then, at His coming, all those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-8 [Corinthians 15:51-57]

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and Sisters:

I am going to tell you a mystery. Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality, then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled:

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."
"O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?"*

The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-9 [2Corinthians 4:14-5:1]

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and Sisters:

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-10 [2Corinthians 5:1, 6-10]

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and Sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-11 [Philippians 3:20-21]

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians:

Brothers and Sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven; and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-12 [Thessalonians 4:13-18]

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians:

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus, we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-13 [2Timothy 2:8-13]

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy:

Beloved:

Remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, was raised from the dead. This is the gospel I preach; in preaching it I suffer as a criminal, even to the point of being thrown into chains- but there is no chaining the word of God! Therefore, I bear with all of this for the sake of those whom God has chosen,

in order that they may obtain the salvation to be found in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. You can depend on this:

*If we have died with Him
we shall also live with Him;
If we hold out to the end we shall also reign with Him.
But if we deny Him He will deny us.
If we are unfaithful He will still remain faithful;
for He cannot deny Himself.*

The Word of the Lord.

NT-14 [1John 3:1-2]

A reading from the first letter of St. John:

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are Gods children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. The Word of the Lord.

NT-15 [John 3:14-16]

A reading from the first letter of St. John:

Beloved:

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so, we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

G-1 [Matthew5:1-12]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-2 [Matthew 11:25-30]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-3 [Matthew 25:1-13]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-4 [Matthew 25:31-46]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to

them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-5 (Long Version) [Mark 15:33-39,16:1-6]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and

they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-5 (Short Version) [Mark 15:33-39]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-6 [Luke 7:11-17]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This

report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-7 [Luke 12:35-40]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus told his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-8 [Luke 23:33, 39-43]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-9 (Long Version) [Luke 23:44-53&24:1-6]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt." When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-9 (Short Version) [Luke 23:44-53]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this, he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph, who though he was a member

of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus. After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a lined cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-10 (Long Version) [Luke 24:13-35]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was

going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So, they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-10 (Short Version) [Luke 24:13-16,28-35]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So, they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been

raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-11 [John 5:24-29]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

"Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also, he gave his Son the possession of life in himself and he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-12 [John 6:37-40]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it (on) the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone

who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-13 [John 6:51-59]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus told the crowd:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-14 (Long Version) [John 11:17-27]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus told the crowd:

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at

home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (But) even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-14 (Short Version) [John 11:21-27]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (But) even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-15 [John 11:32-45]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So,

the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So, they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So, Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-16 (Long Version) [John 12:23-28]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus told his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-16 (Short Version) [John 12:23-26]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus told his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-17 [John 14:1-6]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John: Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where (I) am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-18 [John 17:24-26]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-19 [John 19:17-18,25-39]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So, they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, for the Sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken, and they be taken down. So, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows ¹⁶ that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled:

"Not a bone of it will be broken."

And again, another passage says:

"They will look upon him whom they have pierced."

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So, he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions)

POF-1

Please respond (®): Hear our prayer.

In baptism, **N** received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead (him/her) over the waters of death. Lord, in your mercy...®

Our brother/sister **N** was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy...®

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. Lord, in your mercy...®

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. Lord, in your mercy... ®

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. Lord, in your mercy...®

The family and friends of **N** seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. Lord, in your mercy...®

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister **N**. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. Lord, in your mercy...®

POF-2

Please respond (®): Lord, hear our prayer.

For **N**, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord...®

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised on the last day. We pray to the Lord...®

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord...®

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord... ®

For the family and friends of our brother/sister **N**, that they may be consoled in their grief by

the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord...®

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's Kingdom. We pray to the Lord...®

POF-3

Please respond (®): Lord, hear our prayer.

That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the word they proclaim... we pray to the Lord...®

That those in public office may promote justice and peace...we pray to the Lord...®

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God...we pray to the Lord...®

That God may deliver the soul of his servant **N**. from punishment and from the power of darkness...we pray to the Lord...®

That God in his mercy- may blot out all his (her) offenses...we pray to the Lord...®

That God may establish **N**. in light and peace...we pray to the Lord...®

That God may call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints...we pray to the Lord...®

That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed from this life...we pray to the Lord...®

That God will receive our praise and thanksgiving for the life of N.: let us pray to the Lord...®

That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed...we pray to the Lord...®

That God will bring to completion N.'s baptism into Christ: let us pray to the Lord...®

POF-4

Please respond (®): Lord, have mercy

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Promise and image of what we shall be: Lord, have mercy...®

That God will lead N. from death to life: let us pray to the Lord...®

That all of us, N's family and friends, may be comforted by our grief: let us pray to the Lord...®

Son of God who came to destroy sin and death...Lord, have mercy...®

That God will grant release to those who suffer: let us pray to the Lord...®

Word of God who delivered us from the fear of death...Lord, have mercy...®

That God will grant peace to all who have died in the faith of Christ: let us pray to the Lord...®

Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory...Lord, have mercy...®

That one day we may all share in the banquet of the Lord, praising God for victory over death: let us pray to the Lord...®

Lord Jesus, gentle Shephard who brings rest to our souls, give peace to N. forever...Lord, have mercy...®

POF-6

Please respond (®): Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain. Bless N.'s family and friends who gather here today...Lord, have mercy...®

You became a little child for our sake, sharing our human life. To you we pray...®

POF-5

Please respond (®): Lord, have mercy.

You grew in wisdom, age and grace, and learned obedience through suffering. To you we pray...®

You welcomed children, promising them your kingdom. To you we pray...®

You comforted those who mourned the loss of children and friends. You you we pray...®

You took upon yourself the suffering and death of us all. To you we pray...®

You promised to raise up those who believe in you just as you were raised up in glory by the Father. To you we pray...®

POF-7 (For a Baptized Child)

Please respond (®): Lord, hear our prayer.

For **N.**, child of God and heir to the kingdom, that he/she be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity...we pray to the Lord...®

For **N.'s** family, especially his/her mother and father, brothers and sisters, that they feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief. We pray to the Lord...®

For **N.'s** friends, those who played with him/her and those who cared for him/her, that they may be consoled in their loss and strengthened in their love for one another...we pray to the Lord...®

For all parents who grieve over the death of their children, that they may be comforted in the knowledge that their children dwell with God...we pray to the Lord...®

For children who have died of hunger and disease, that these little ones be seated close to the Lord at his heavenly table...we pray to the Lord...®

For the whole Church, that we prepare worthily for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name to pass from this world to the next...we pray to the Lord...®

Funeral Music

Processional Songs (Opening):

All Creatures of Our God & King
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Blest Be the Lord
City of God
Come Follow Me
For All the Saints
Gather Your People
Glory and Praise to Our God
Here I am, Lord
Rain Down
Sing a New Song

Preparation of the Gifts

Amazing Grace
Beyond the Moon and Stars
Christ Be Our Light
Come to the Water
Eye Has Not Seen
Fly Like a Bird
Hosea
How Can I Keep from Singing?
How Great Thou Art
I Have Loved You
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
I, The Lord
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
In Every Age
Jesus, Come to Us
Lord of All Hopefulness
Only This I Want
Peace if Flowing Like a River
Prayer of St. Francis
Rain Down
Seek Ye First
Softly and Tenderly

Communion Songs

Be Not Afraid
Behold the Lamb
Beyond the Days
Blest Are They
Bread, Blessed & Broken
Bring Forth the Kingdom
Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled
Eye Has Not Seen
Gifts of Finest Wheat
Here I am, Lord
I Am The Bread of Life
Miracle of Grace
On Eagle's Wings
One Bread, One Body
Seed, Scattered and Sown
Servant Song
Song of the Body of Christ
We Are Many Parts
We Have Been Told
Whatsoever You Do
You Are Mine
You Are Near

Recessional Songs (Closing):

Amazing Grace
Canticle of the Sun
Christ Be Our Light
City of God
For All the Saints
Glory and Praise to Our God
Here I am, Lord
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
How Great Thou Art
In Every Age
In the Day of the Lord
Sing A New Song
We Will Rise Again

Funeral Planning Sheet Selections

Name of Deceased: _____

Will there be a Vigil Service: YES OR NO

If so, Date: _____ Time: _____

Family Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The Wake Service/Rosary (Optional):

At the conclusion of the service, family members or friends can say few words in remembrance of the deceased. We ask that the speaker prepare and write out those remarks in advance and keep remarks to about 2 minutes. Kindly speak to the priest at the wake service. Experience has shown us the importance of the speaker representing the entire family (the pronouns we, us, our are usually better than I, me, mine, etc.) Since we are in a Church service, it would be a shame not to mention faith, God, prayer, etc. in the life of the deceased. Unfortunately, some speakers in the past have used vulgarity—it is most inappropriate. When a speaker goes beyond a couple of minutes the congregation becomes restless. These comments are intended to assist the speaker in this time of mourning a loved one. If there are any questions, please speak to the priest. Should there be a special song that is desired to be played – it is at the Wake Service. The Funeral Mass has very specific requirements for music selections – (ie – music found in the church hymnal).

The Mass of Christian Burial:

Date: _____ Time: _____

The Funeral Pall

Members of the family or friends may place the pall on the casket. The white funeral pall reminds us that the deceased was given the promise of eternal life at baptism. Will family members place the pall? YES OR NO.

The Liturgy of the Word

Family or friends, if they are able, are encouraged to do these readings. The Word of God brings hope and consolation. Please choose three readings from above: 1 Old Testament Reading (pp. 5-8); Responsorial Psalm (pp. 8-11); New Testament Reading (pp.11-15); Gospel Redding (pp. 15-22) and Prayers of the Faithful (pp. 22-25). The Priest will email the chosen readings to the

Family contact for the readers to practice.

Old Testament Reading Number: _____ Page: _____

Read by: _____

Email: _____

New Testament Reading Number: _____ Page: _____

Read by: _____

Email: _____

Gospel Reading Number: _____ Page: _____

The Gospel is read by the priest or deacon.

Prayer of the Faithful

Prayers of intercession are offered for the deceased, for the family, all who mourn, and for all who are gathered at this Mass.

Prayers of the Faithful Number: _____ Page: _____

Read by: _____

Email: _____

Offertory Gift Bearers

Family members or friends are invited to carry up the gifts of bread and wine. This is another liturgical expression of love for the deceased.

_____ / _____

_____ / _____

Eucharistic Ministers

Specially trained ministers help distribute communion. Normally two Eucharistic Ministers will suffice for most funerals...four if necessary. Please speak to the priest.

_____ / _____

Music Selections:

Music is an integral part of worship during the Funeral Mass and can be helpful to the grieving process. Secular music is not appropriate for the Funeral Mass but may be suitable for the Vigil Service, the Committal or the reception following the Funeral.

Processional (Opening) Hymn: _____

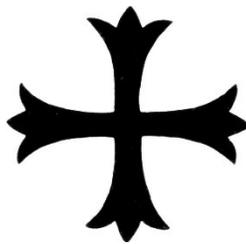
Responsorial Psalm (if sung): _____

Offertory Hymn: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Reflection Hymn (if necessary): _____

Recessional (Closing) Hymn: _____



“He sent me to heal the broken-hearted. . . to comfort all who mourn.”

Isaiah 61:1